

# Pharmacies and the VFC Program

An Informational Webinar  
presented by the Montana Immunization Program

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# Background

- 2011 legislature passed Senate Bill 189 allowing pharmacists to administer influenza vaccine to children 12 years and older.
- The VFC Program provides vaccine free-of-charge to Medicaid eligible children 0 through 18 years of age.
- Due to the existence of the VFC Program, Medicaid does not reimburse for vaccine given to Medicaid-eligible children.
- In order for pharmacies to administer influenza vaccine to Medicaid children, they must enroll in the VFC Program and administer VFC vaccine.

# VFC Program in Montana

- Federal entitlement program administered nationally by the CDC
- Montana Immunization Program administers the VFC Program in Montana
  - Manage budget and supply chain, enroll providers, and oversee provider compliance
  - Offer full spectrum of pediatric and adolescent vaccines
- Public, private, and specialty providers (pharmacies) can enroll.
- Children through 18 years of age who meet at least one of the following criteria are eligible for the vaccine:
  - Medicaid eligible
  - American Indian/Alaskan Native
  - Uninsured

# imMTrax

## Montana Immunization Information System

- Plays an important role in the VFC Program.
- Web-based application - launched November 2011:
  - Central repository for patient immunization records
  - Platform for managing VFC vaccine inventory and reporting cold chain data
  - Replaced WIZRD
- All VFC providers are required to use imMTrax to manage VFC vaccine inventory and report cold chain data.
- Entering patient-level immunization records is optional.

# Impact of Pharmacy Enrollment

- Current VFC Enrollment
  - 234 providers
  - Typically enroll 4–5 new providers each year
- Pharmacy Enrollment:
  - 267 pharmacies with an estimate that @100 will enroll
  - In time for the 2012-2013 influenza season
  - Challenges:
    - Estimating Influenza vaccine needs for the coming season
    - Staff available for enrollment training/visits
- Good News: Pharmacies administer only seasonal influenza vaccine so qualify for Streamlined Oversight.

# VFC Requirements -

## Brief Overview

THIS IS NOT THE MANDATORY ENROLLMENT TRAINING!!!

- Pharmacist and collaborative practice provider must sign a VFC site contract each year.
- You must have vaccine cold storage equipment that reliably maintains proper vaccine storage temperatures. (No dormitory-style refrigerator/freezers)
- Must have in each storage unit a certified calibrated continuously monitoring thermometer.
- Must check and log storage unit temperatures twice daily for every day your facility is open.

# VFC Requirements

## Continued

- Must screen and document patient VFC eligibility status at each immunization visit.
- Cannot bill patients or insurance for VFC vaccine and cannot charge a dispensing fee over \$14.13 to non-Medicaid VFC-eligible clients.
- Must follow the vaccine administration requirements of the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act:
  - Provide Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) with every immunization
  - Participate in Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)
  - Fulfill vaccine administration charting requirements.

**Safety and Accountability**

# Streamlined Oversight

- Under Streamlined Oversight providers still must meet all VFC requirements but are not required to have a routine biennial compliance site visit from the Immunization Program.
- The Immunization Program reserves the right to conduct a compliance site visit if deemed necessary.
- To qualify for streamlined oversight providers must:
  - Only administer seasonal influenza vaccine
  - Must be current and active in the program (current site contract and order vaccine within the calendar year)
  - Have received a documented enrollment visit.



# Streamlined Oversight

## Continued

- Additional Requirements under streamlined oversight:

- Submit monthly to the Immunization Program:

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- Temperature logs for storage units
    - An inventory report that includes:
      - Doses on hand by vaccine at beginning of reporting period
      - Doses administered by age cohort during reporting period
      - Doses received by vaccine during reporting period
      - Doses of vaccine wasted/lost due to mishandling by vaccine for reporting period
      - Doses on hand by vaccine at the end of reporting period

# Streamlined Oversight

## Continued

- Additional Requirements under streamlined oversight:  
(Continued)
  - Submit monthly to the Immunization Program an additional paper form that provides the following information:
    - Doses of vaccine administered by VFC eligibility category for the reporting period (not captured in imMTrax)
    - A statement signed by the pharmacist or cooperative practice provider certifying that no change in VFC Coordinator or storage units has occurred since the last monthly report.
  - If monthly information shows wasted or unaccounted for vaccine above 5%, temperature excursions, or changes in storage units or VFC coordinator, the Immunization Program must follow up with the pharmacy.

# What's Next?

## Estimated Timeline

- This webinar is to provide information so pharmacies can decide if they want to enroll.
- If YES - Contact the Immunization Program to get on the enrollment roster 444-5580 [hhsiz@mt.gov](mailto:hhsiz@mt.gov)
- Mid-March we will mail enrollment packets (with enrollment forms) to interested pharmacies.
- Enrollment forms are due back to the Immunization Program by April 30, 2012 to ensure participation for the 2012-2013 flu season.
- In May, the Immunization Program will host several VFC Enrollment Training webinars. Documented participation is mandatory.

# What's Next?

## Estimated Timeline (continued)

- May through August, Immunization Program field staff will visit pharmacies to inspect storage and temperature monitoring equipment. Visits will take from 15-30 minutes and will be scheduled ahead of time.
- In July, we will distribute the VFC influenza vaccine order form for the 2012-2013 season with it due back to the Immunization Program by early August.
- VFC influenza vaccine typically begins shipping in September and continues through December, as vaccine becomes available at McKesson, our distributor.
- Pharmacies must have completed an enrollment webinar, had an inspection visit, and begun participation in imMTrax prior to receiving their first VFC vaccine shipment in September.
- imMTrax participation is required year round in order to stay active in the program.

# First Step...

- Contact the Immunization Program to get on the enrollment roster  
444-5580 [hhsiz@mt.gov](mailto:hhsiz@mt.gov)

For more information:

- This presentation will be posted under the “Pharmacy” heading at:  
<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/immunization/vaccinesforchildren.shtml>
- For further reading on the Montana VFC Program please refer to our *VFC Provider Handbook/Vaccine Management Plan* on our website at:  
<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/immunization/vfcproviderhandbook.shtml>
- Or contact:
  - Lori Hutchinson (VFC) 444-0277 [lhutchinson@mt.gov](mailto:lhutchinson@mt.gov)
  - Dave Campana (Medicaid) 444-5951 [dcampana@mt.gov](mailto:dcampana@mt.gov)